

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

## 1. A stencil apparatus comprising:

an elongated stencil support strip having at least one longitudinally extending severance line and at least one longitudinally extending stencil support area between said severance line and the edge of said stencil support strip;

a plurality of individual stencil elements with cut-out portions representing alpha numeric characters, symbols or other visible elements;

said stencil elements having pressure sensitive adhesive on the lower surfaces thereof;

said stencil elements being adapted for mounting on said stencil support area;

said stencil apparatus being formed of two layers, a lower release liner, and an upper layer which has a coating of pressure sensitive adhesive on its lower surface forming the stencil support area;

said apparatus including structure for permitting the removal of material underlying said stencil elements, thereby exposing the said cut-out portions of said stencil elements and said pressure sensitive adhesive underlying said upper layer; and

said upper layer having an opening to expose said release liner, said opening formed by the removal of a portion of said upper layer, and wherein the removed portion of said upper layer may be employed to provide supplemental masking;

whereby said stencil apparatus may be mounted onto a desired surface, and paint, ink or other appropriate marking material may be applied through said stencil to apply an image to said surface.

2. A stencil apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein said removed upper layer portion is longitudinally divided into two sections, and wherein said two sections may be employed to provide upper and lower masking for said apparatus.

3. A stencil apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein said apparatus includes two longitudinally extending support areas, one for the top and one for the bottom of said stencil elements.

4. A stencil apparatus as defined in claim 1 wherein a guide line is provided on said support area for aligning said stencil elements.

5. A stencil apparatus as defined in claim 1 wherein a masking structure is provided on at least one end of said apparatus to insure a clean, neat image as said stencil is employed.

6. A stencil apparatus as defined in claim 1 wherein the stencil apparatus is in the form of a roll.

7. A stencil apparatus comprising:

an elongated stencil support strip having at least one longitudinally extending severance line, and at least one longitudinally extending stencil support area between said severance line and the edge of said stencil support strip;

a plurality of individual stencil elements with cut-out portions representing alpha numeric characters, symbols, or other visible elements;

said stencil elements having pressure sensitive adhesive on the lower surfaces thereof;

said stencil elements being adapted for mounting on said stencil support area; and

said apparatus including arrangements for permitting the removal of material underlying said stencil elements, thereby exposing the said cut-out portions and at least a portion of the adhesive coated lower surfaces of said stencil elements;

whereby said stencil apparatus may be mounted onto a desired surface, and paint, ink or other appropriate material may be applied to said stencil to apply an image to said surface.

8. A stencil apparatus as defined in claim 7 wherein said stencil elements are releasably adhered to said support area.

9. A stencil apparatus as defined in claim 7 wherein said apparatus apart from the stencil elements is a single layer of material.

10. A stencil apparatus as defined in claim 7 wherein said stencil apparatus is formed of two layers, a lower release liner, and an upper layer which has a coating of pressure sensitive adhesive on its lower surface, and wherein said upper layer forms the stencil support area.

11. A stencil apparatus as defined in claim 10 wherein said upper layer has an opening formed by removal of a portion of said upper layer to expose the release liner, and wherein said portion of said upper layer may be employed to provide supplemental masking.

12. A stencil apparatus as defined in claim 11 wherein said removed upper layer portion is longitudinally divided into two sections, and wherein said two sections may be employed to provide upper and lower masking for said apparatus.

13. A stencil apparatus as defined in claim 7, wherein said apparatus includes two longitudinally extending support areas, one for the top and one for the bottom of said stencil elements.

14. A stencil apparatus as defined in claim 7 wherein a guideline is provided on said support area for aligning said stencil elements.

15. A stencil apparatus as defined in claim 7 wherein a masking structure is provided on at least one end of said apparatus to insure a clean, neat image as said stencil is employed.

16. A stencil apparatus as defined in claim 7 wherein the stencil apparatus is in the form of a roll.

17. An apparatus as defined in claim 11 wherein the upper layer material which is removed is in the form of areas which are regularly spaced along the length of the apparatus.

18. An apparatus as defined in claim 7 wherein said severance line is a cut through said support strip.

19. An apparatus as defined in claim 7 wherein said severance line is a series of cuts and ties forming perforations.

20. A stencil apparatus as defined in claim 9 wherein said support strip has pressure sensitive adhesive on the lower surface thereof.

21. A stencil apparatus as defined in claim 7 wherein the material underlying said stencil elements is provided with a plurality of severance lines facilitating intermediate partial removal of said material to temporarily mount said stencil apparatus in a desired location.

22. A stencil apparatus comprising:

an elongated stencil support strip having at least one longitudinally extending severance line and at least one longitudinally extending stencil support area between said severance line and the edge of said stencil support strip;

a plurality of individual stencil elements with cut-out portions representing alpha numeric characters, symbols and other visible elements;

said stencil elements having pressure sensitive adhesive on the lower surfaces thereof;

said stencil elements being adapted for mounting on said stencil support area;

said apparatus including arrangements for permitting the removal of material underlying said stencil elements, thereby exposing the adhesive coated lower surfaces of said stencil elements; and

said stencil apparatus apart from the stencil elements being a single layer of material;

whereby said stencil apparatus may be mounted onto a desired surface, and paint, ink or other appropriate material may be applied to said stencil to apply an image to said surface.

23. A stenciling method comprising the steps of:

forming a two layer stencil apparatus including an upper adhesive coated sheet and a lower release liner;

cutting a longitudinal strip along at least one severance line through said upper layer;

removing said strip;

mounting adhesive coated stencil elements to extend across the space remaining from the removal of said strip;

removing at least a portion of said release liner from said assembly;

mounting the remainder of said assembly on the surface to be stenciled, with the adhesive on said upper sheet and said stencil elements holding said assembly in place; and

applying marking material onto said surface through the openings in said stencil apparatus.

24. A stenciling method comprising the steps of:

forming a stencil apparatus including a support strip;

forming at least one longitudinally extending severance line in said support strip;

mounting adhesive coated stencil elements to said support strip;

removing material underlying said stencil elements to expose the adhesive coated lower surfaces of said stencil elements;

mounting said assembly in place on a surface to be stenciled with the exposed adhesive in engagement with said surface; and

applying marking material onto said surface through the openings in said stencil apparatus.

25. A method as defined in claim 24 comprising forming a kit including said stencil apparatus, the stencil elements, marking material to be applied through the stencil apparatus, and an applicator for applying the marking material.